Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(Currently amended)** A fluidized-bed gasification furnace utilizing a fluidized-bed reactor, said fluidized-bed gasification furnace comprising:

a fluidized bed portion for a fluidized medium, said fluidized bed portion having a fluidized bed floor portion at a bottom part thereof;

a fluidizing gas dispersion device for blowing a fluidizing gas into said fluidized bed portion to fluidize the fluidized medium in said fluidized bed portion;

a discharge port provided in the vicinity of said fluidized bed floor portion for discharging the fluidized medium;

a fluidized medium discharge chute having a medium-receiving end and a medium-discharge end, said medium-receiving end being connected to said discharge port and said fluidized medium discharge chute extending downwardly from said medium-receiving end connected to said discharge port to said medium-discharge end disposed below said discharge port; and

a gas blow device provided below said fluidized medium discharge chute for blowing a gas into said medium-discharge end of said fluidized medium discharge chute toward said medium-receiving end of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

2. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein a device for mechanically withdrawing the fluidized medium is provided in the vicinity of the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

3. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said gas blow device is provided at the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

4. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

5. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

6. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

7. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said gas blow device is provided at the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute.

8. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

9. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

10. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

11. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 4, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

12. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 2, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

13. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 3, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

14. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 4, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

15. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 5, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

16. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein an outer wall of said fluidized-bed gasification furnace is in a form of a rectangle.

Claim 17 **(Canceled)**

18. **(Currently amended)** A fluidized-bed gasification furnace utilizing a fluidized-bed reactor, said fluidized-bed gasification furnace comprising:

a fluidized bed portion for a fluidized medium, said fluidized bed portion having a fluidized bed floor portion at a bottom part thereof;

a fluidizing gas dispersion device for blowing a fluidizing gas into said fluidized bed portion to fluidize the fluidized medium in said fluidized bed portion;

a discharge port provided in the vicinity of said fluidized bed floor portion for discharging the fluidized medium;

a fluidized medium discharge chute connected to said discharge port and extending downwardly from said discharge port to below said discharge port;

a fluidized medium withdrawing device for mechanically withdrawing the fluidized medium, said fluidized medium withdrawing device being provided in the vicinity of the lowermost part of said fluidized medium discharge chute; and

a gas blow device for blowing a gas into an interior of said fluidized medium discharge;

wherein said fluidized medium withdrawing device has a medium-receiving end at which fluidized medium is received from said fluidized medium discharge chute, and a medium-discharge end to which the fluidized medium is transferred from said medium-receiving end, said medium-receiving end being connected to said fluidized medium discharge chute; and

wherein said gas blow device is located in the vicinity of said medium-receiving end of said fluidized medium withdrawing device and below said fluidized medium withdrawing device.

19. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 18, wherein said gas blow device uses steam, carbon dioxide, or oxygen-free gas as a gas to be blown.

20. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 18, wherein said device for withdrawing the fluidized medium comprises a screw conveyor.

21. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized-bed gasification furnace according to claim 18, wherein said fluidized-bed reactor is divided into units for performing respective functions so that said fluidized-bed reactor can be modified to accommodate fuels having different properties by changing an arrangement of said units.

22. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized bed gasification furnace according to claim 18, wherein said gas blow device is located below said fluidized medium withdrawing device at a position opposite said fluidized medium discharge chute such that said gas blow device is arranged to blow the gas into said fluidized medium discharge chute.

23. **(Previously presented)** The fluidized bed gasification furnace according to claim 1, wherein said medium-discharge end of said fluidized medium discharge chute is disposed below an entirety of said fluidized bed floor portion of said fluidized bed portion.